ber of whole sale prices (1981-82—100) increase from 223.1 in August 1993 to 409.4 in the third week of April, 1994—an increase of 83.5 per cent. The increase in the prices is mainly attributed to the imbalance between demand for and supply of the commodity arising from the reported crop loss in Punjab due to floods and pest attack. The lower opening stocks of cotton with the mills also added to the bullish sentiment. The speculative role played by trade is equally responsible for spurt in prices.

(c) In order to arrest the rising trend in prices and to help the common man, the Government has allowed the duty free import of cotton under Open General Licence: re-introduced selective credit control on cotton and kapas; and imposed restrictions on stock limits of cotton for the textile mills, cotton ginning factories, cotton pressing factories and others dealing in cotton. The Government had also stopped/suspended the export of cotton for a short period.

Memorandum of understanding on farm Research between India and Cuba

6035. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Cuba have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on farm research; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Science and Technology signed a Memorandum of Agreement in the field of Science and Technology on 19th November, 1978 and the Protocol on Cooperation in Science and Technology on 16th September, 1988 with the Republic of Cuba.

Under this Agreement/Protocol, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture has been signing Work Plan with the Government of the Republic of Cuba for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research. The last Work Plan for the biennium 1992 and 1993 terminated on 31st December, 1993. A fresh Work Plan for the biennium 1994-95 was signed on 11th April, 1994 at New Delhi.

Under the Work Plan with Cuba, there is a provision for exchange of scientists between the two countries for training in various disciplines of Agricultural Research, exchange of scientific information and germplasm of Horticultural and Vegetable Crops.

Ineffective implementation of MMPO

6036. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of intra-ministerial conflicts between Ministries of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, the MMPO (Milk and Milk Products Order) is not being effectively implemented resulting in unhygeinic milk products flooding the market;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) when steps are being taken to remedy the situation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

New Agricultural Policy

6037. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a new Agricultural Policy during this year; and

(b) if so, what are the features of the said policy and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b)

Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution prepared by the Government has been, placed on the Table of the House on 14th May, 1993.

Decline in percentage of plan outlays of ICAR

6038. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the percentage of successive plan outlays of the ICAR out of the country's total plan outlay for Fourth to Eighth Five Year Plan outlays; and

(b) if so, whether this will effect the research programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The present outlay of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) against the total plan allocation of the country is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Plan	Total Plan	ICAR allocation	%AGE
IV	15902.2	85.00	0.5345
V	39303.00	153.56	0.3907
VI	97500.00	340.00	0.3487
VII	180000.00	425.00	0.2361
VIII	793000.00	1300.00	0.1629

(b) While there has been reduction in the percentage of outlay on ICAR, there is a substantial increase in the outlay in absolute terms The VIII Plan outlay of Rs. 1300.00 crores represents an increase of 205 per cent in the outlay over the VII Plan outlay of Rs. 425.00 crores.

Research in rain fed agriculture

6039. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research in rain fed agriculture has led to identification of a number of low cost technologies for improving crop productivity; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken for the utilisation of the research findings in rain fed agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The proven package of practices of rain-fed farming technology are being disseminated to farmers through the respective State Agricultural Universitiese and the State Department of Agriculture.

(ii) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is disseminating rainfed technology through programmes like National Demonstrations, Operational Research Projects, Krishi Vigyan Kendras.